



Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative

Social-Emotional Health Work Group - April 7, 2005, 9 - 11 a.m.	
Members Present: Sherrill Archer, Patti Bokony, Sarah Breshears, Laura Butler, Bruce Cohen, Deniece Honeycutt, Lynn Lincoln, Ann Patterson, Martha Reeder, Dan Sullivan, and Paula C. Watson.	
Regrets: Betti Hamilton, Carol Lee, and Kathy Stegall. Visitor: Lindsey Prince.	
Agenda Item #1: System of Care Grant - Laura Butler	
<p>Discussion: Laura reported that Counseling Services of Eastern Arkansas would be re-submitting their application for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration System of Care Grant. They hope to enhance the ECC component of the grant application and seek to compliment steps that this work group is taking.</p> <p>The grant will focus on children in Lee and Phillips Counties. This is a six-year grant. Basically, it is a planning grant, and it is due May 17. They hope to use UAMS to do the evaluation. The moneys must go to mental health services, but other needed services must be provided at no expense to the grant.</p>	
Agenda Item #2: Update - AECCS and SFI - Reapplication (Martha Reeder)	
<p>Discussion: Kathy Stegall, Donna Alliston, and Martha are preparing a presentation for June on Early Childhood Systems Planning. The presentation will include the Lynn Kagan information on Early Childhood Systems.</p> <p>Strengthening Families Initiative. The two-day retreat at the Winthrop Rockefeller Center (formerly Winrock Conference Center) was held March 10-11. SFI is a child abuse and neglect program that targets early care settings to reach families before any incident of child abuse. Jean McIntosh, the Strengthening Families representative and a consultant for the Center on Social Policy, was the facilitator for the meeting.</p> <p>The Leadership Teams for SFI and AECCS have been consolidated into one group. The main partners are the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) and the Division of Child Family Services (DCFS) of the AR Department of Human Services. John Allen has been the only person represented from DCFS on a Work Group, but we are trying to strengthen and build in more cooperation with that division.</p> <p>(next column)</p>	<p>SFI asked us to change from eight objectives down to three. It is a two-year initiative that started in January. The goals are interrelated with the AECCS Initiative. SFI will provide some free technical assistance to help AECCS accomplish its objectives by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">? Getting the word out about child abuse.? Develop the tool kit.? Four programs will be chosen that model the very best practices that are possible to reach families. These would show how the five protective practices could be built up. <p>At the retreat all participants were divided into three groups to work on the three objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">? Exemplary Program Selection (model programs)? Tool Kit (resource)? Public Education Strategy (communication) <p>The center piece in Arkansas will be based around the model programs.</p>

Agenda Item #2 Continued: Update - AECCS and SFI - Reapplication (Martha Reeder)

Discussion: Model Programs. During the Retreat, Bruce Cohen expressed his opinion that he did not like calling the model programs, "Exemplary Programs" and this title was changed later to "Promising Practice" programs.

Criteria for being chosen as model programs will include: Quality approved programs that serve the whole family with extra points if school-age children are served, cooperative agreements with other agencies in town helping with entire families' needs. The programs must also have a good relationship with DCFS.

It was decided that 130 quality approved programs will be chosen and asked to consider applying to become one of the four model programs. The four programs will include a variety of settings: for profit, ABC, private setting, large, small, etc. The four programs chosen will be like a lab.

Although only four programs will be chosen, all the providers who complete an application will be invited to continue to be engaged with SFI through plans made by the DCCECE for training and technical assistance from the SF group. The plan includes a pre-conference training day with Jean McIntosh prior to the Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA) conference in October

The kick-off for SFI is Tuesday, May 24, in Conway at the AETN studio. The 130 quality approved programs will be invited to come and meet with Jean McIntosh and possibly Judy Langford, the head of SFI. Applications will be distributed at that time.

There has been some discussion around encouraging the providers to bring a team, composed of the director, a staff member, and a parent to the May kick-off and the October meeting. In October the parents and providers will meet separately for at least one session with Jean McIntosh. A scholarship would be offered for the team in October. The larger group will be known as the Strengthening Families Network.

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There is a self-assessment for each one of the five protective factors that must be completed by participants, where the participant looks at its performance in that area. Four of the five have to do with families; the fifth one has to do with the child.

Questions: What's in it for the four centers by being chosen as model programs?

- ? Self-improvement, training and support for the staff.
- ? Money to pay substitutes in order for staff to attend certain training experiences.
- ? Being flag-ship programs for quality
- ? To be ear-marked is a plus for them when the tier quality program begins in the next three or four years.
- ? Training by a national organization or the state.

There is no money directly to the programs for their involvement, but the Division might kick in some money to help with the implementation of DECA Training (Devereux Early Childhood Assessment). There are 20 partners involved in SFI and, hopefully, there will be cooperation from the partners.

Sherri Jo McLemore and Martha are sharing responsibility for being state contacts for SFI. Sherri Jo has a lot of experience in the whole area. Martha is keeping things organized and running. Martha showed the poster to the group. Linda Robinson at DCFS may be able to help us secure more posters.

Family Support Work Group. Based on the information gained at the retreat and other discussions related to the tool kit, Jackie Gorton from the Family Support Work Group proposed that the Promising Practice programs help develop the tool kit resource. The model programs will try out the materials and provide feedback to help it evolve. They will be able to suggest things that they use and request things that they need and do not have available. They will try out the materials for their effectiveness as they are developed. At the end of the first year, we should be closer to having a tool that we can share statewide.

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Agenda Item #2, Continued: Update - AECCS and SFI - Reapplication (Martha Reeder)

Discussion: SFI Kick-off. For quite some time, the Children's Trust Fund has been talking with AETN about producing a special on child abuse. As they were talking about how they were going to put it together, someone suggested that they use the five protective factors. Thus, AETN has produced a video built around the five protective factors. It is going to be aired to-night at 8 p.m.

On May 24 at the kick-off, it is going to be re-aired within a two-hour live program. It will be interspersed with a panel discussion and questions from the audience. There will also be phone lines available in order people from the TV audience can order materials. The Division is still in the process of selecting people who need to be on the panel.

Invitations will be sent out to everyone who needs to be there—people from the business community, policy makers, AECCS work group members, and other suggested by members of work groups.

Ann Patterson suggested that members of the Governor's appointees on the Commission on Child Abuse, Rape, and Domestic Violence—they are throughout the state. She indicated that there are a couple of commissioners who have been actively involved in these issues.

Reapplication. The AECCS project officer informed Martha that there is still no word on the reapplication. The program officer assured Martha that she will have six weeks to complete the re-application. The current grant ends June 30 and we do not know if there is an automatic continuation.

Medical Home Work Group. The conference to include physicians and other stakeholders is getting a lot of
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support from all the groups. There may be some HRSA funds available to help fund such a conference.

Parent Education Work Group. Martha provided information related to the Family Development Credentialing Program out of Missouri. She expressed a belief that there is nothing in Arkansas close to this training. One advantage is that by undergoing the training, it is possible to get college credit. She has a few copies of the materials available if anyone interested,

There are two kinds of credentials: One works in schools. The other works with families—para-professional. This training is for the para-professional. The Curriculum comes out of Cornell University. It is one of the programs that fulfills Head Start requirement. There are multiple settings in which it can be used. We can develop a free standing program, requiring a higher education institution as the administering agent. Or, we can go through UMKC (nearest school to AR). They have offered to enter into a contract with us to administer this program in Arkansas.

Dr. Deborah K. Smith will be coming on April 22 at 1 p.m. at Plaza West, first floor conference room. She will be able to answer any questions that we may have.

UMKC has an agreement with an agency called National PONSI (www.nationalponsi.org) This group has determined that the Missouri FDC program offers seven hours of credit. This costs the student about \$45 to get the credit from the higher education institution. This encourages some people who would never think they could go to college to pursue a higher education. The credits can usually be transferred, possibly as an elective. The individual college/university would determine how they would be transferred in their program.

ASKS:

- ? If you know of someone who should be invited to the SFI kick-off, please let Martha or Paula know.
- ? Ann will arrange for the Commission on Child Abuse, Rape, and Domestic Violence listing to be sent to Martha and suggested that Mary Ann Rollins be invited (AR Tech). She will send the e-mail information to Paula.
- ? It was suggested that Angela Sewall be invited to the meeting; Sarah will send the e-mail address to Paula.
- ? Martha will check Dana related to the HRSA grant.

Agenda Item # : Screenings

Discussion: Bruce and Patti talked about screening tools that they researched. Dr. Gil Buchanan (Medical Home) is interested in screenings and has been working to get something going. He is focused on using a screening tool called, _____? _____. Dr. Buchanan feels that one way the tool should be distributed is at the child care provider location and let the parent or custodian take the tool to the doctor. He is very interested in bringing everyone together—physicians and stakeholders, etc.

During the retreat Dr. Buchanan clarified that the EPSDT screening program deals with developmental screening. The language is there to improve it. He has tried to get a particular screening program (PEDs) implemented.

Suggestions: The Curriculum Review Committee reviews curriculum before approving it for providers. Perhaps the same thing can be done for Screening tools. It was suggested that we ask the ABC consultants to review the screening tools.

Patti reviewed each of the recommended screening tools for Head Start programs profiled by the Center for Children and Families Education Development Center, Inc. (Website: www.ccs.edc.org.)

Bruce was able to attend the March meeting of the Medical Home Work Group. Through that meeting he connected with the American Academy of Pediatrics website. He has reviewed it and looked at what programs are happening and located information from Illinois.

Bruce has been in touch with Illinois about their efforts in early screening and their efforts in the Medical Home program. Illinois had a conference to bring together physicians and other providers, educators, and parents to talk about Medical Home issues. They have chosen the Ages and Stages tool as their screening tool. (Website: <http://www.brookespublishing.com/store/books/bricker-asq/>.)

Bruce distributed an example of the Ages and Stages Screening. The issues may be money in using this tool. The Ages and Stages kit is \$194. You must also buy the forms after you purchase the kit.

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For physicians, DECA may be overkill, unless the DECA people are able to link to or design something specifically for physicians.

Patti noted that in some states there are issues about privacy and mass screenings for mental health in children and adolescents. Ann asked about EPSDT and the social emotional screening. She thought they did something about mandating screens. However, Bruce thinks it was not as broad as to the Primary Care MDs but is done in a targeted way by contract with the Department of Pediatrics.

Children going into foster care are screened, but a few years ago, they were "creamed." Everything identified as a deficiency is addressed on their web site. (DCFS?)

Deniece asked the question, "What about the children who don't have any type of childcare?" She stated that 65 percent of four year olds and 80 percent of three year olds are not in formal child care programs and that might be an issue for trying to just do screenings through child care providers. Immunization and WIC program would be a good place to do screening. It was discussed that we try to invite WIC to attend our meeting. It was noted that some attempts have been made in the past to invite them to the table without success.

Next steps: We have the information. There are good tools out there. What is acceptable? We need to get different people/groups together, shared buy-in.

There is a program called Healthy Steps that is used in 25 states. It is a model program. Every part of it is already set up. There is a literacy component of to the program. Dr. Chad Rogers has the literacy piece of this model here in Arkansas. The Healthy Steps program has the child health care consultant piece in it. It encourages pediatric practices to have this position

Other comments. We need to include other interested groups. We need to work together with the Medical Home Work Group around screening and conference issues; they need to own the conference. We need to feed information into them.

(See asks listed on Page 5)

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Agenda Item # , Continued: Screenings

- asks:
- ? Bruce agreed to make contact with WIC to see if he can involve them in the work group.
 - ? Bruce was asked to find out how many pediatricians are there in Illinois and are they working with all primary care MD's. Have they (Illinois) made the leap?
 - ? Bruce was asked if they could send us a copy of their materials used at the conference with physicians.
 - ? Martha needs to check with Dana for more information on HERSA funds and how to obtain them.

Agenda Item # : Miscellaneous - Ad ournment

Act Early. Martha talked about a CDC early screening childhood website that has good materials and a parent interactive site. Parents input information and the site gives feedback. There is a campaign to get the information out to providers. They have print and media PSAs that are already developed. The campaign and materials are called, "Learn the Signs. Act Early." The Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly/ActEarlyOrder.htm>.

Fathers. Patti discussed single-parent family issues and wants us to look at meeting the needs of fathers. Patti noted that CDCP has a new community focus.

Great Start. Bruce reviewed Michigan's early childhood systems building efforts. Michigan has completed the systems planning program. The handout for their action steps for SEH was distributed. They had to present to the legislature. We may want to blend this in to keep us from re-inventing the wheel. Patti asked folks to review this info and compare with our logic model and provide feedback to her. Websites:
http://www.greatstartforkids.org/documents/FORMATTEDSocialEmotionFinalDiscussion_000.pdf
<http://www.greatstartforkids.org/documents/FORMATTEDResultsandIndicatorsTable.pdf>

oint Meeting Proposed. It was suggested that SEH should have a joint meeting with the Medical Home group. Martha will talk with Dick Nugent about this proposed joint meeting. It was decided that Social-Emotional Health will wait until a discussion is held with Dick Nugent before setting a new date. Perhaps we will select two dates and survey to determine the best date for the next meeting.

Media Assistance. Martha noted that if we need Media help or have a problem with a particular public awareness need, perhaps Julie Munsell from the DHS Communications office to help. She will be meeting with Julie related to the SFI Kick-off. If groups are working with public awareness needs, we need to work together on it. There are only so many contacts available.

Cultural Diversity. Lynn raised the question about cultural diversity and how groups are addressing this issue. Martha reply from the tools point of view. We need to be inclusive of our populations, looking at tools, programs, being culturally diverse. Some things may have to be marketed differently. When we were trying to get membership for the various work group, we tried to be inclusive, but not everyone responded. It was suggested that we include someone from the Hispanic Health Coalition, perhaps Eddie Ochoa or Carolyn Turturo from UALR may be interested.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

ASKS: All members to review the Great Start information and get back to Patti.
Martha will consult with Bruce, Patti, and Dick Nugent related to the next meeting date.
_____?_____ will contact the Hispanic Health Coalition to ask someone to join the work group.